2021 ANNUAL REPORT

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Increasing environmental knowledge and community engagement in Kentucky through the power of environmental education

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

KAEE is dedicated to maintaining and growing environmental education in Kentucky. Even amidst great changes in our learning environments during the past few years, we have remained committed to engaging today's youth in knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of the natural world. We strive to create a generation with a passion for the environment, as well as the knowledge and drive to make changes in the environmental climate left to them.

To better support educators and students during the challenges in 2021, we channeled our energies into providing robust, on-demand, engaging professional development opportunities such as our eeCredentials, virtual and hybrid trainings, and more. We spearheaded a landscape analysis of environmental education in eight southeastern states to ensure that youth around the region have the opportunity to meaningfully connect to the outdoors. And we accomplished so much more that we are excited to highlight in this Annual Report.

Read on for details about how we trained educators, increased community engagement, helped build collective impact, and worked to ensure environmental education is incorporated into all of Kentucky's classrooms – and beyond.

ASHLEY HOFFMAN
Executive Director

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

In 2021, our programs, events, workshops, webinars, and other educational offerings reached 832 educators and impacted more than 20,000 students.

eeCREDENTIALS

We expanded our eeCredentials program to include nine eeCourses and two eeCredentials:

eeCourses

- Appalachian Mountain Ecology
- Community Centered Environmental Education
- Community Engagement Guidelines for Excellence
- Core Curriculum Program Training
- Foundations in Teaching Environmental Education
- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in Environmental Education
- K-12 Academic Standards & Environmental Education
- KAEE Facilitator Training
- Sound Environmental Education Principles

eeCredentials

- Green Community Leader
- Professional Learning Leader

In 2021, we enrolled 100 participants in the eeCredentials program and met maximum enrollment in our new JEDI course.

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

45TH ANNUAL KAEE CONFERENCE

The KAEE Conference welcomed 115 educators virtually for four days of workshops, meetups, presentations, roundtables, and networking. Keynote speakers included Nicole Jackson and Mitchell Thomashow.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

We hosted more than 30 workshops for 500+ educators throughout the year and had a record enrollment for our annual Outdoor Learning Symposium, which welcomed 81 attendees for the virtual event.

"The workshop experience was great. The facilitators were welcoming and encouraged participation and the participants came from multiple sectors which aided in the information sharing and diversity. All instructions for all homework and preparations were very well laid out, easily accessed, and helpful. I am, like many, a lifelong learner, and love learning opportunities. I found the biggest takeaway to be meeting people and networking."

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

FAYETTE COUNTY EE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government provides significant funding and support for environmental education programs. KAEE was contracted to provide a review of current research on EE best practices, identify successful programs across the US as potential models, and assess existing efforts.

This report served to share those results and make recommendations for funding priorities in the future, with an emphasis on how LFUCG and its partners could most effectively increase the environmental literacy levels of Lexington residents.

LFUCG CONTRACT

KAEE received a contract from LFUCG to oversee the coordination and administration of environmental education efforts in Lexington. This project is focused on advancing environmental education efforts for K-12 public and private schools within Lexington-Fayette County.

Specifically, KAEE will assist LFUCG to develop curriculum for K-12 classrooms and non-formal EE programming to provide for community partners that serve youth outside of school hours; train city staff and contract educators in the curriculum, field trips, lessons, and programs; lead Teachers' Environmental Academy(s) each summer and develop ongoing engagement for alumni of the program; manage the scheduling of educators to lead classroom-based lessons; connect students to green careers; and more.

CULTIVATING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Pisces Foundation, this project included a comprehensive study of the environmental education already happening on the ground in eight southeastern states, helping the states involved identify gaps and barriers to access that prevent successful implementation in some areas.

We have collected data from 646 participating organizations for the Southeast Regional Landscape Analysis and are are now working on data analysis and a communications plan for this project. The final report will provide recommendations and next steps for increasing environmental literacy efforts in the southeast based on an inventory of model programs and initiatives happening nationwide.

DON'T WASTE IT!

We began training educators throughout the southeast in Don't Waste It!, a new educator guide to waste management. Don’t Waste It! has been expanded through the southeast with the help of a $100,000 environmental education grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received by KAEE and the Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC).

SEEA recently released new state-specific versions of the guide for Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida.

CULTIVATING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY

This year, KAEE launched a third Thursday bi-monthly webinar series as a new membership perk. Featuring a wide variety of presenters and topics, the aim of this series is to educate, inspire, and help connect KAEE members and friends with available and relevant environmental education resources and ideas.

We also welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors in 2021: John Pollpeter and Erin Sliney.

2021 EXCELLENCE IN EE AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in EE
Jane Eller

M.K. Dickerson Outstanding Educator Award
Natasha Parsons

Rising Star Award
Erin Kinnetz

Outstanding PreK-12 School Award
Red Oaks Forest School

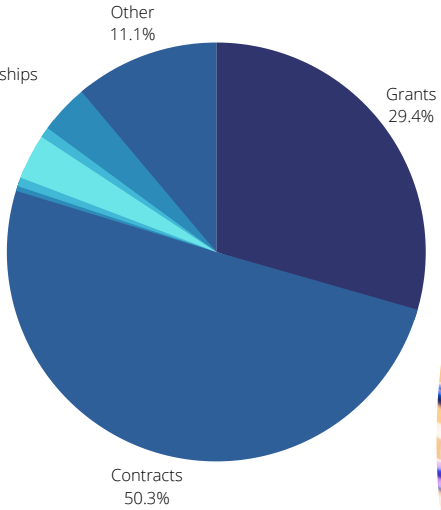
Outstanding Community Partner Award
Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

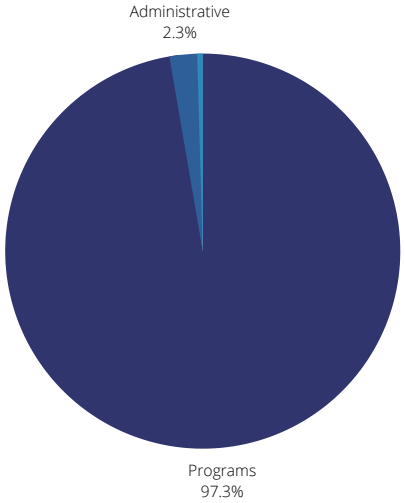
Outstanding Business Award
Nature Resilience School

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

- Grants: $216,078
- Contracts: $368,970
- Investments: $2,766
- Consulting: $5,000
- Donations: $25,621
- Sponsorships: $5,950
- Programs and Memberships: $27,890
- Other: $81,609
- ***Total: $733,885***





EXPENDITURES

- Programs: $665,481
- Administrative: $15,440
- Fundraising: $3,075
- ***Total: $683,997***

BUILDING SUPPORT

2021 SUPPORTERS: GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- Pisces Foundation
- NAAEE ee360+
- NAAEE Guidelines
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky
- PLT ee360
- WILD ee360
- KY Colonels

2021 SUPPORTERS: SPONSORS

- Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
- Eaton Charitable Fund
- Far Off Cows Dental Ceramics
- Kentucky Environmental Education Council
- Kentucky Community College & Technical System
- Kentucky Division for Air Quality
- Maker's Mark Distillery, Inc.
- Northern Kentucky University Center for Environmental Education
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- SFI KY State Implementation Committee

2021 END-OF-YEAR CAMPAIGN

Thanks to our generous and energetic community, we exceeded the fundraising goal for our end-of-year campaign and raised more than $20,000. We are deeply appreciative of our community that continues to come together to help us achieve our mission.

BUILDING SUPPORT

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BUILDING SUPPORT

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Stephen Richter
David Rightmire
Samantha Ringl
Becky Haltermon Robinson
Bora Simmons
Sophia Stephenson
Renee Strnad
Scott Townsend
Jean Waters
Lee and Susan Weidenbach
Brenda Weiser
Terry Williams
Michelle Wilson
Karan Wood
Brittany Wray
Jenny Wray

BUILDING SUPPORT

2021 ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

NONPROFIT, GOVERNMENT, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

American Cave Conservation Association
Bellarmine University Department of Environmental Studies
Berea College Forestry Outreach Center
Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
Black Soil
Bluegrass Greensource
Boone County Conservation District
Canoe Kentucky
Clay Hill Memorial Forest
Eastern Kentucky University Division of Natural Areas
Food Literacy Project
Frankfort Audubon Society
Friends of Wolf Run
Green Forest Work
Jackson Purchase Foundation
Jefferson Memorial Forest
Josephine Sculpture Park
Kentucky Environmental Education Council
Kentucky Community College & Technical System
Kentucky Division for Air Quality
Kentucky Division of Water
Kentucky Environmental Education Council
Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky State University Environmental Education Research Center
Kentucky State University Watershed Research and Education
Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Legacy Greenscapes
Louisville Nature Center
McConnell Springs
Nature Center at Lost River Cave
New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future
Northern Kentucky University Center for Environmental Education
Office of Kentucky State Nature Preserves
Organic Association of Kentucky
Passionist Earth and Spirit Center
Red Oaks Forest School
River City Paddlesports
Seedleaf
The Parklands Floyds Fork
University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Services
Urban Forestry Initiative
Wild about Simpson County
Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery

LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KAEE's 46th Annual Conference will be held at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park from September 15-17, 2022.

SCHOOL DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS FOR EE IN THE SOUTHEAST

With our SEEA affiliates, in 2022 KAEE will develop the framework for phase II of a landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in the southeast, focusing this time on schools and school districts and providing recommendations and next steps for increasing K-12 environmental literacy efforts.

LAUNCH OF DISTRICT-WIDE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PILOT PROGRAM

KAEE is piloting a new program to work directly with school districts to offer professional learning experiences to its teachers. These learning experiences will focus on Kentucky Academic Standards for Science for the district's teachers at multiple grade levels with little to no cost to the district.

KAEE will host three sets of experiences for up to 15 teachers, one for each grade band (Elementary, Middle, and High). Participating teachers will receive training in three award-winning environmental education programs: Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD.

kaee

ABOUT KAEE

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Driving excellence in environmental education by promoting professional development and best practices

BUILDING SUPPORT

Increasing public support for and investment in the field of environmental education

CULTIVATING COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Bringing people together to create a stronger and more inclusive movement

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Kentucky Association for Environmental Education

ABOUT KAEE

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